

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KATHMA 01137 031106Z
ACTION NEA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
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INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KATHMANDU 1137

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SHUM, PINT, NP
SUBJECT: B.P. KOIRALA AND GANESH MAN SINGH ACQUITTED IN
OKHLADHUNGA CASE

REF: KATHMANDU 1022 & 1035

1. JUDGE SHRESTHA MARCH 3 DELIVERED VERDICT IN OKHLADHUNGA CASE. BOTH B.P. KOIRALA AND GANESH MAN SINGH WERE ACQUITTED ON THE GROUNDS THAT THERE WAS NO INDEPENDENT EVIDENCE TO IMPLICATE TEHM IN THE ATTEMPT TO FOMENT REBELLION. A THIRD ACCUSED IN THE CASE WAS ALSO ACQUITTED, BUT A FOURTH (MAHESH KERMACHA) WAS SENTENCED TO 5 YEARS IMPRISONMENT AND A FINE OF RS. 1000 AS AN ACCESSORY, AND A FIFTH, BHADRIKALI MISHRA, WAS DECLARED AS ABSCONDING. THE VERDICTS ARE SUBJECT TO CONFIRMATION BY THE REGIONAL COURT.

2. FOLLOWING ANNOUNCEMENT OF VERDICTS, KOIRALA TOLD REPORTERS THAT COURT HAD GIVEN HIM LEAVE TO GO OUT FOR MEDICAL TREATMENT AND HE WOULD APPEAR BEFORE THE COURT UPON HIS RETURN. NO PERIOD HAS BEEN SPECIFIED FOR HIS RETURN AND IT IS LEFT TO HIS DISCRETION. HE SAID HE PLANNED TO SPEND A COUPLE OF DAYS IN DELHI TO CONSULT DOCTORS AND WOULD THEN GO
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PAGE 02 KATHMA 01137 031106Z

ON TO NEW YORK. HE SAID HE HOPED TO MEET HIS MAJESTY UPON HIS RETURN AND NOTED THAT HIS ACQUITTAL IS SUBJECT TO CONFIRMATION BY A SUPERIOR COURT. "MY CONCERN HAS ALWAYS BEEN NATIONAL RECONCILIATION AND NATIONAL CONSCIOUSNESS. SO LONG AS THAT IS NOT ACHIEVED, I WILL FEEL MY MISSION IS NOT COMPLETE." ASKED HOW HE VIEWED THE SITUATION, HE REPLIED THAT HE WAS HOPEFUL WHEN HE CAME BACK TO

NEPAL, IS MORE HOPEFUL NOW, AND EXPECTS TO BE EVEN MORE HOPEFUL WHEN HE GETS BACK. HE SAID HE HAD RECEIVED GOOD WISHES FROM PEOPLE FROM ALL WALKS OF LIFE.

3. COMMENT: KOIRALA HAS NOW BEEN ACQUITTED (SUBJECT TO CONFIRMATION OF THE HIGHER COURT) OF FIVE OF THE SEVEN CHARGES AGAINST HIM. THE REMAINING TWO CASES--ONE FOR TREASON AND ONE FOR SEDITION--HAVE BEEN INDEFINITELY POSTPONED BECAUSE OF INCOMPLETE EVIDENCE. B.P. LEAVES FOR DELHI THIS EVENING, WHILE GANESH MAN RETURNS TO JAIL PENDING CONFIRMATION BY THE HIGHER COURT OF HIS ACQUITTAL.
HECK

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